

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN JANUARY 2009

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in January was 2.02 million metric tons (Mt), which was slightly higher than that in December 2008 and 21% lower than that in January 2008, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Phosphate rock used in the United States in January 2009 was 1.04 Mt, which was 27% lower than that in December 2008 and 62% lower than that in January 2008. The steep drop in phosphate rock use resulted from reductions in phosphate fertilizer production that began in October 2008 in response to deteriorating market conditions. U.S. phosphate producers were affected by farmers postponing fertilizer purchases until spring 2009, declining global demand, falling grain prices, and the world economic downturn. There have been no reported sales of phosphate rock by domestic producers since late 2006 because all phosphate rock is used internally by domestic producers to

manufacture phosphoric acid or elemental phosphorus. U.S. producer stocks were 17% higher than those in December 2008 and 56% higher than those in January 2007.

Imports of phosphate rock were estimated based on U.S. Census Bureau figures and export data provided by the Moroccan producer. Morocco supplies more than 99% of the phosphate rock imported into the United States; however, the U.S. Census Bureau suppresses some of the phosphate rock data from Morocco. Table 4 shows exports of phosphate rock from Morocco.

Apparent consumption of phosphate rock in 2008 was 31.7 Mt. Estimated apparent consumption in January was 53% lower than the average monthly consumption in 2008.

TABLE 1
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Marketable production	Sold and/or used	Ending stocks ²
2008:			
January	2,550	2,690	4,380
February	2,510	2,480	4,410
March	2,740	2,640	4,500
April	2,450	2,670	4,280
May	2,820	2,610	4,480
June	2,280	2,300	4,460
July	2,410	2,630	4,490
August	2,760	2,710	4,610
September	2,700	2,600	4,710
October	2,580	2,490	4,800
November	2,170	1,710	5,260
December	1,990	1,410	5,840
January-December	30,000	28,900	XX
2009, January	2,020	1,040	6,830

XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes inventory adjustments.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS OF PHOSPHATE ROCK¹

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Quantity	Value ²
2007:		
December	205	11,000
January-December	1,790	103,000
Total year ³	2,670	154,000
2008: ⁴		
January	197	11,400
February	163	17,900
March	119	7,030
April	220	22,200
May	184	20,000
June	157	18,900
July	125	8,240
August	149	7,650
September	189	11,600
October	100	21,300
November	30	1,450
December	220	30,900
January-December	1,850	179,000
Total year ³	2,750	266,000

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Cost, insurance, and freight values at U.S. ports.

³Includes an estimate for data suppressed by the U.S. Census Bureau.

⁴Data for the current month not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; data on the majority of phosphate rock imports from Morocco were suppressed by Census.

TABLE 3
COMPARATIVE U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS

(Million metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2007	2008	2009 ^{e,1}
Marketable production	29.7	30.0	23.8
Sold or used by producers	31.1	28.9	12.2
Yearend stocks	5.0	5.8	6.8
Imports for consumption ^e	2.7	2.8	2.6
Average value per ton	\$57.54	\$96.45	NA
Apparent consumption ^{e, 2, 3}	33.8	31.7	14.8

^eEstimated. NA Not available.

¹Annualized data.

²Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

³Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports.